

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2634

ANSWERED ON:15.12.2015

Water Pollution

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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of reports by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and World Health Organisation (WHO) indicating high water pollution levels in our cities;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has undertaken/proposes to undertake programmes/schemes to improve water and air quality including setting up of monitoring centers in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the funds allocated/utilised in this regard, State/UTwise;
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (f) the details of steps taken by the Government to tackle the issue of pollution in Indian cities, including creation of warning mechanisms?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a)&(b)The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) in association with State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs)/Pollution Control Committees (PCCs) is monitoring the quality of water bodies at 2500 locations across the country under National Water Quality Monitoring Programme (NWQMP). The monitoring results indicate that organic pollution is the predominant cause of water pollution. Based on the magnitude of organic pollution, CPCB in 2008 identified 150 polluted river stretches which increased to 302 in 2015. The rivers stretches are polluted mainly due to discharge of untreated / partially treated water and discharge of industrial wastewater.

CPCB assessed the total volume of municipal wastewater generation in the country at about 61,948 MLD as against the installed sewage treatment capacity of 23,277 MLD leaving a wide gap of more than 38,671 MLD. Similar observations were made by WHO in its reports on water pollution.

(c)Apart from monitoring of water bodies at 2500 locations nationwide under NWQMP, CPCB in association with SPCBs/PCCs initiated National Air Quality Monitoring Programme (NAQMP) in 1984. Presently, the network comprises of 612 operating monitoring stations located in 254 cities/towns covering 29 states and 5 union territories across the country. Under NAM, three air pollutants viz., Sulphur Dioxide (SO₂), Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) and Particulate Matter size equal to or less than 10 micron (PM₁₀) have been identified for regular monitoring at all the locations.

(d)&(e) To undertake programmes/ schemes for improvement of water and air quality, this Ministry provides 'Assistance for Abatement of pollution' and financial support for setting up of Common Effluent Treatment Plants. Also, the NAQMP is implemented in association with CPCB and SPCBs/ PCCs. The details of financial support provided for these schemes are given at Annexure I and Annexure II respectively.

(f) The steps taken to tackle the issues of water pollution in Indian cities are:-

â€¢ Direction issued to SPCBs under Section 18 (1) b of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 to direct concerned agencies in the state/UT to develop infrastructure for sewage treatment.

â€¢ Direction issued to concerned municipal corporations/ local authorities under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for treatment and utilization of sewage for restoration of water quality of rivers.

â€¢ Action to comply with effluent standards is taken by SPCBs/PCCs to improve the water quality of the rivers.

â€¢ Installing of Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs) for cluster of Small Scale Industrial units and directions under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 is also given to all CETPs to install continuous effluent monitoring system to comply with the stipulated standards.

â€¢ Issuance of directions under Section 18(1) b of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 for implementation of Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD) in the industrial sector for control of pollution.

â€¢ Communication to the Chief Secretaries for preparing action plan for sewage management and restoration of water quality in aquatic resources.

The major steps taken to tackle the issues of air pollution in Indian cities include:-

â€¢ National Air Quality index launched by the Prime Minister in April, 2015 starting with 14 cities;

â€¢ Notification of National Ambient Air Quality Standards 2009, envisaging 12 pollutants;

â€¢ Ban on burning of leaves, biomass, municipal solid waste;

â€¢ Formulation of regulations/statutes;

- â€¢ Setting up of monitoring network for assessment of ambient air quality;
- â€¢ Introduction of cleaner/alternate fuels and promotion of public transport network;
- â€¢ Creation of infrastructure for pollution control.
